Visy Pulp & Paper’s personnel, now forming part of Build Run Repair (BRR) oversaw EPCM services for the Tumut mill which was built in two stages. Stage 1 was completed in 2001 with an initial investment of $450 million. Stage 2, commissioned in 2009, enabled the mill’s production to double. In total, the investment has been almost $1 billion.

The mill was built to meet the highest efficiency and environmental standards. It produces 680,000 tonnes per year of high-quality unbleached kraft pulp and packaging paper for the export and domestic markets. The paper machine was designed to run at a maximum speed of 1,000m/min. Raw materials used at Tumut are pulp logs and sawmill chips, all sourced from softwood plantations located in southern NSW.

The mill uses a chemical process to separate fibre for paper production. Input wood chips are dried in a chemical reaction and the waste organic liquid material, known as black liquor, is used in a recovery boiler to generate energy. A biomass-fired power boiler generates additional power.

Thanks to the application of BRR’s extensive industry experience, Tumut is the lowest user of water of any similar mill in Australia. It was engineered to be a truly advanced mill with zero effluent leaving the site. This concept has been possible to execute due to the treated waste water from the mill being mainly reused back into the process as makeup for cooling water - with any excess discharged on site for agricultural purposes.

BRR’s scope included the following:
- Conceptual design
- Procurement
- Construction management
- Start up and commissioning
- Operations
- Optimisation and process improvement